



RURAL DISTRICT OF HEREFORD

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1967

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

RICHARD WOOD-POWER

B.A., F.R.C.S.(Ire), D.P.H.

which includes the

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

DONALD FODEN

M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.



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HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Medical Officer of Health :

R. Wood-Power, B.A., F.R.C.S. (Ire.), D.P.H.,
Public Health Department,
1 Ledbury Road,
Hereford.

15th May 1968.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hereford Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you the Annual Report for the above District for the year 1967.

The birth-rate was 16.3 per 1,000, and the death-rate was 11.3 per 1,000 (and when adjusted by the comparability factors supplied by the Registrar General, were respectively 17.9 and 9.5 per 1,000), and the infant mortality rate 39.6 per 1,000 births.

The report of the Chief Public Health Inspector is appended hereto.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. WOOD-POWER.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health—

R. WOOD-POWER, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.(Ire.), D.P.H.
(Part-time).

Chief Public Health Inspector—

DONALD FODEN, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.,
Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Public Health Inspector—

S. J. MCKIRGAN, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. P.H.I.E.B.

Clerk/Typist—

Miss P. FAULKES

Clerk to the Council—

R. A. SYMONDS, M.A.(Cantab.) (Part-time).

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	65,669
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	20,030
Structurally separate dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	5,444
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	...	39
Rateable value, 31st March, 1967	...	...	...	...	...	£537,641
A Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	...	£2,202
„ „ „ „ Housing (1919) Act	...	...	...	...	...	£2,198

Vital Statistics :—

Deaths	...	...	Total 217.	Male 110.	Female 107
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (Crude)	...	...	11.3		
„ „ „ „ „ „	...	...	(Adjusted)	9.5	
Live Births—Legitimate	...	Total 299.	Male 147.	Female 152	
„ „ Illegitimate	...	„ 29.	„ 16.	„ 13	
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (Crude)	...	16.3			
„ „ „ „ „ „	...	(Adjusted)	17.9		
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	...	8.8			
Still Births	...	...	Total 6.	Male 2.	Female 4
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	...	...	17.9		
Live and Still Births	...	Total 334.	Male 165.	Female 169	
Infant Deaths	...	...	...	...	13
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births—total	...	39.6			
„ „ „ „ „ „	...	legitimate	43.4		
„ „ „ „ „ „	...	illegitimate	0		
Neo Natal „ „ „ „ „ „	...	...	...	36.5	
Early Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	36.5			
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	35.9			
Maternal Deaths...	...	...	...	...	0
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	0			

Physical Features and General Character

The Rural District of Hereford is situated in the middle of the county, and completely surrounds the city of Hereford. It is bounded on the north by the Leominster and Wigmore Rural District, on the north-east by the Bromyard Rural District, on the south by the Ross and Whitchurch Rural District, and on the west by the Dore and Bredwardine and Weobley Rural Districts. The middle of the district is low-lying.

In the north Dinmore Hill rises to a height of 747 ft., in the south Orcop Hill to 958 ft., and Aconbury Hill 905 ft., on the west Credenhill is 720 ft., while on the eastern side are Dinedor 595 ft., Backbury 738 ft., and Westhide 422 ft.

The district is well watered. The river Wye flows across from west to east in a very tortuous bed, and the rivers Lugg and Frome flow from north to south until they empty into the Wye. In the low-lying portions, following the courses of the rivers, is alluvial deposit.

Geologically the district is Old Red Sandstone. Credenhill, Dinedor, Dinmore and Callow hills are of Cornstone formation.

The subsoil is gravelly loam in those parishes through which the rivers flow, and in the remainder of the district for the most part marl or clay.

The population at the Census of 1961 showed an increase of 78 persons in the Rural District, and varied in the thirty-nine Parishes within the Area from 19 in Dinmore to 2,481 in Credenhill.

Legislation in Force

Bye-laws with respect to Hop and Fruit Pickers made 1909 were amended during 1937; Tents and Vans made 1912 were amended during 1955; Food Bye-Laws were made in 1950; and Bye-Laws with respect to swimming baths and bathing pools during 1961, and Part IV of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 has been adopted.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Professional Nursing in the Home

There is an adequate number of District Nurses/Midwives in the Area to cover all Parishes.

Their services are provided by the County Council and the Nurses are under the supervision of the Superintendent Nursing Officer.

Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examinations are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the County Hospital, Hereford, where Dr. D. R. Christie is in charge.

The chemical analyses of water samples are carried out by Messrs. G. Rudd Thompson and Partners Ltd., Newport, Mon.

Hospitals

Hospital Services for the County of Hereford are under the Management of the Herefordshire Hospital Management Committee, who are responsible for the control of all Hospitals, to which patients can be admitted in case of need.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance facilities are available through the Herefordshire County Council Ambulance Service, whose services may be obtained through County Ambulance H.Q., Grafton, Hereford (telephone 4451). The service is available to all registered medical practitioners and in certain cases to registered midwives. Attendance at accidents and sudden street illnesses can be obtained by the public by following the instructions given on the dial of the telephone.

Stretcher ambulances and sitting case vehicles are available at any time and are manned by trained personnel.

The H.Q. Station is supplemented by Sub-stations distributed throughout the County.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	County Hospital.
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	County Hospital.
Orthopaedic	...	...	...	General Hospital

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1967

DISEASE	Sex	All Ages	CASES NOTIFIED													
			Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65- over
Scarlet Fever	M.	12	—	—	1	2	1	3	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poison- ing	M.	12	—	2	—	1	—	4	—	2	—	1	2	—	—	—
	F.	5	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whoop- ing Cough	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	M.	34	2	3	4	6	3	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F.	35	1	5	9	6	5	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysen- tery	M.	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	F.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneu- monia	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puer peral Pyrexia	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

- (a) Total number of outbreaks 4
- (b) Number of cases 17
- (c) Number of deaths 0
- (d) Organisms or other agents responsible :—Salmonella
Typhimurium (15 cases) Stanley (1 case) and
Muenchin (1 case).

Foods involved : Raw milk in certain cases—not ascer-
tainable in other cases,

HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT
CAUSES OF DEATH, 1967

							M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
4.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
5.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	6	—
6.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
7.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
8.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
9.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
10.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
11.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	11	10
12.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	20	18
13.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
14.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	12	27
15.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	10	4
16.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
17.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	13	13
18.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
19.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
20.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
21.	Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
22.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
23.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
24.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
25.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
26.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	9	11
27.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
28.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
29.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
TOTAL							110	107

Tuberculosis

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Number on register 31.12.66	22	12	5	11	27	23
New cases notified	—	1	1	—	1	1
Cases transferred to area...	1	1	—	—	1	1
Cases removed	23	14	6	11	29	25
	1	3	—	—	1	3
Number on register 31.12.67	22	11	6	11	28	22

The following report has been given by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Donald Foden, on work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1967.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

As required by the Public Health Officers' Regulations, 1959.

Inspections made during the year under:								<i>Number</i>
Housing Acts & Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1465
Housing—Tenancy Applications	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	242
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	292
Dairies & Milk Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Food & Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	545
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Hop Pickers' Quarters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Factories with Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Factories without Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other Premises under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Work Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Petroleum Acts & Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	163
Damage by Pests Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Temporary & Movable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	166
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	424
Scrap Metal Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Clean Air Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
National Assistance Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Noise Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Agriculture (Misc. Welfare Provisions) Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Housing

Attention has been directed to dealing with unfit houses and action with regard thereto has been as follows :—

(a) UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT.

1. After informal action...	...	...	...	...	...	102
2. After formal notice under :						
(i) Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	0
(ii) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	0
(b) UNFIT HOUSES DEMOLISHED	...	...	...	...	...	22
(c) UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED	...	...	...	...	...	4

The number of applications for Improvement Grants under the relevant provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Act, 1964, were as follows :—

	<i>Discretionary</i>	<i>Standard</i>
Number of applications received ...	5	66
(a) Applications granted ...	2	66
(b) „ rejected ...	3	—
(c) „ pending ...	—	—

It is to be noted that with the increased assistance that can now be given in certain circumstances a greater number of applications for Standard Grant are being made.

No improvement areas under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1964, have been prescribed by the Council but since the inception of this Act eight applications have been received from tenants for the improvement of houses outside such areas, seven improvement notices have been served and one was under consideration at the end of the year.

The number of new houses erected during the year are set out below :—

Houses built privately	...	...	...	...	...	96
Houses built by Council	...	...	...	...	...	38
					Total	134

Houses owned by the Council now number 713, and are situate in the following parishes : Birch, Much (50), Breinton (8), Burghill (20), Clehonger (127) Credenhill (38), Dewchurch, Little (46), Dewchurch, Much (44), Dormington (10), Eaton Bishop (30), Fownhope (40), Hampton Bishop (2), Haywood (6), Holme Lacy (18), Lugwardine (22), Marden (30), Mordiford (48), Moreton-on-Lugg (44), Pipe and Lyde (8), Preson Wynne (8), Stoke Edith (6), Stretton Sugwas (36), Sutton (14), Wellington (18), Weston Beggard (10) and Withington (30).

Thirty houses have been built by the Council at Clehonger and sold—in some cases to people who were Council House tenants.

Water Supplies

As from the 1st April, 1960, all publicly owned piped water supplies became vested in the Herefordshire Water Board and during the year mains have been laid to afford a supply to houses in the parishes of Kenchester, Credenhill, Stretton Sugwas, Breinton, Burghill and Tillington, Withington, Westhide, Weston Beggard, Lugwardine, Bartestree, Sutton, Marden, Haywood, Dewsall and Callow.

Apart from a few smaller units of supply all other sources of supply are subjected to filtration and chlorination and 45 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, of which 35 were reported upon as being satisfactory and 10 as unsatisfactory. There is no evidence to believe that any of the supplies are liable to have plumbo-solvent action. Where adverse bacteriological reports are received information is immediately transmitted to the Board Engineer so that he can take appropriate remedial action.

The approximate number of dwelling houses supplied from public mains is as follows :—

(a) direct to the houses	...	...	...	...	2,026
(b) by means of standpipes	...	...	...	...	39

In addition to the above mentioned samples, eight samples have been submitted for Chemical Analysis and 144 for Bacteriological Examination from private sources with the following results:

				<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Chemical	...	...	...	4	4
Bacteriological	...	...	...	86	58

Dairies and Milk Supplies.

There are 23 distributors on the register who retail Designated Milk.

In addition there are a number of distributors registered in other areas who retail milk in this administrative district, together with a further number of persons, who are also producers and who are registered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Twenty examinations of raw milk for the presence of *Brucella Abortus* were carried out. Two of these were positive and milk from the cows involved was subjected to heat treatment.

Food and Food Premises.

The number of known food premises in the Area is as follows —

General Food Shops...	...	...	...	...	50
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	2
Food Preparation Premises		...	...	...	4
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	2
Canteens	...	...	...	...	23
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	36
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	49

The above premises fulfil the requirements of Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Fifty-one premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 as follows :—

Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	49
Manufacture of Sausages	...	...	...	2

During the year inspections of food premises have continued to ascertain that hygienic practices were being maintained. Four hundred and eighty-five inspections were carried out, of which sixty-six related to registered food premises.

Forty-two samples of Ice Cream were submitted for examination and were reported upon as falling within the following Provisional Grades :—

Provisional Grade I	...	...	39
„ Grade II	...	...	3
„ Grade III	...	...	—
„ Grade IV	...	...	—

There are no licensed slaughterhouses or egg pasteurising plants.

There is one poultry processing establishment to which sixty-five visits were made during the year. 11,043 broilers, 10,952 chickens, 12 ducks, 45 geese and 490 turkeys were examined and 738 birds were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

In addition, 58 lbs. of bacon and 124 lbs. of tinned foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were condemned.

All unfit food was destroyed by incineration.

Nuisances.

No Abatement Notices were served during 1967—all nuisances being satisfactorily overcome by informal action.

Infectious Diseases.

Thirty-seven cases of infectious diseases, consisting of 15 cases of Scarlet Fever, 5 cases of Dysentery and 17 cases of Food Poisoning, were investigated.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No infestations discovered.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 & 1951

No action necessary.

Registered Common Lodging Houses

None in the area.

Sewerage and Drainage

The Council has continued to give earnest consideration to the provision of sewerage schemes and on its instructions the Consulting Engineers carried out a survey of the whole area and submitted a report defining those areas where schemes would be practicable. These proposals have been agreed in principle and consideration is now being given to the order of precedence in which the various schemes should be placed.

The scheme for the village of Fownhope, where the residents should soon enjoy the benefit of a piped water supply has been commenced, and should be followed by the scheme for part of Withington and the major portions of the parishes of Lugwardine and Bartestree and that for part of Holmer. Attention is also being given to proposed schemes at Moreton-on-Lugg, Wellington, Hampton Bishop, part of Mordiford, Holme Lacy and Dinedor.

Consideration is also being given to the provision of a cesspit emptying service having regard to the fact that it will be impossible from economical and physical reasons to provide sewerage schemes for the whole of the Council's administrative area.

Sewerage schemes for Kings Acre Road and certain other properties in the parish of Breinton, a portion of Kenchester and major areas of the parishes of Stretton Sugwas and Credenhill together with those for parts of the parishes of Allensmore and Clehonger and one for the centre of Little Dewchurch village have been completed.

Factories

There are 56 factories within the district, 54 with and 2 without mechanical power.

1. Inspections :

Premises	<i>Number of</i>		
	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
Factories with mechanical power ...	89	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	2	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) ...	30	—	—
TOTALS ...	121	—	—

2. Defects found :

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of Defects</i>			<i>Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of Cleanliness ...	21	21	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:				
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	15	15	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	36	36	—	—

3. Outwork—Nil.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act

	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Inspected</i>	<i>Employees</i>
Offices	14	14	37
Retail Shops	27	27	35
Wholesale Departments and Warehouses	—	—	—
Catering Establishments and Canteens open to the Public	6	6	55
Fuel Storage Depots	1	1	4
	48	48	131

Total Inspections 67

Accidents Notified 0

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act.

One Inspector/Operator, together with two operators are employed, but their services are shared jointly with the Bromyard, Ledbury and Ross and Whitchurch R.D.'s. The table set out hereunder records work in this area during 1967 :—

	<i>Non-Agric.</i>	<i>Agric.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of Inspections	135	508	643
Number of Infestations including Re-In- festations	116	464	580
Number of Treatments	116	464	580

Contracts held in the four areas at the 31st December, 1967, amounted to £1,504.

Temporary and Moveable Dwellings

Following approval by the County Planning Authority licences in accordance with the Model Standards have been issued under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, as follows :—

Multiple sites :—

Issued for a limited period	...	1
Issued without time limit	...	6

Individual sites :—

Issued for a limited period	...	7
Issued without time limit	...	10

In addition, there are several moveable dwellings in respect of which licences are not required under the provisions of the First Schedule of the Act, but which are, nevertheless, subject to the provisions of the Council's Byelaws, and a number of caravans are known to be stored at various premises but are unoccupied.

Considerable trouble is experienced in dealing with the nomadic type of caravan dweller who persists in siting his caravan on the verges of public highways and bridle roads.

The Council are anxious to obtain land whereon to provide a Council operated caravan site, but efforts to acquire ground in all respects suitable for this purpose have so far proved abortive.

A Public Enquiry into the acquisition of land by the Council at Credenhill was heard in November, 1966, and the Minister ultimately granted approval.

Two persons were prosecuted for using land as a caravan site without holding a licence from the Council; the charge against one of these persons was dismissed but the other defendant was fined a sum of £50.

A further person was prosecuted for using an unlicensed caravan site and a fine of £5 was imposed.

Refuse Collection.

Three freighters, with three loader-drivers and eight loaders are employed and collections are carried out once in every week throughout the area including, under agreement with the County Council, the cleansing of and removal of refuse from various lay-bys.

With these regular collections there is no excuse for the indiscriminate tipping of refuse in old quarries and on wasteland in the area but it must be stressed that it is not always local people who are responsible for this reprehensible practice.

During 1967, 1,480 loads of refuse were collected and hauled to the three disused quarries used for disposal.

The Council has decided to inaugurate the paper sack method for the storage and collection of household refuse and it is anticipated this will be fully operative throughout the whole administrative area by the end of 1968.

Scrap Metal Dealers.

Fifty-one persons are now registered under the provisions of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964, as dealers in old metal, and close liaison in dealing with these persons is maintained with C.I.D. Officers of the Central Division of the Herefordshire Constabulary.

Unfortunately many of these persons are nomadic in character and this creates additional difficulties in exercising the full control that is desirable.

Petroleum Acts.

The number of petroleum installations licensed by the Council is ninety-seven.

During the year supervisory work together with the appropriate air pressure tests on tanks and pipelines was carried out at several new installations and at certain existing installations which were enlarged.

Provision of Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

There are twenty-four premises consisting of 12 Flats, 2 Hospitals, 1 Hostel, 2 Schools, 5 Hotels, 1 Convent and 1 Home for Elderly Persons to which Section 60 of the Public Health Act, 1936, applies, and where the provision of adequate means of escape in case of fire must be provided and maintained.

These premises are visited regularly and the assistance of the Fire Prevention Officer with the consent of the Chief Fire Officer for the County, in this matter must be appreciated and acknowledged.

DONALD FODEN, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.,
Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
1 Ledbury Road, Hereford.

26th March, 1968.

Tel. : 5457 Ex. 27.

